



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION
CURRENTLY BEING COORDINATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA), as amended, the Department of Environmental Quality is currently reviewing the following proposal for consistency with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program:

Project Title: Proposed rule to Implement Regional and Trimester Quota Adjustments for Large and Small Coastal Shark Fisheries

Project Description: The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division proposes to adjust the regional and trimester quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on updated landings information, create a framework mechanism for annual quota adjustment of regional quotas, remove the requirement to publish season length information at least 30 days prior to the season start date, and announce quotas and season lengths for the first trimester season of 2005. Preliminary landings data indicate an increase in shark fishing activity in the Gulf of Mexico region in 2003 coupled with a reduction in activity in the North Atlantic and South Atlantic regions. NOAA Fisheries proposes adjusting the regional quotas based on updated landings data from 1999 through 2003.

Section 306(d)(14) of the CZMA requires public participation in the federal consistency review process. The consistency determination for this project may be viewed at the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Impact Review, 629 East Main Street, Room 633, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Also, citizens may send written comments to the attention of John Fisher at this address, or submit comments electronically to jefisher@deq.virginia.gov. All comments must include name, address and telephone number of the person commenting.

Comments must be submitted by: October 19, 2004